AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning the International, legislative, and federal fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

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GET OUT THE VOTE! ELECT A BETTER CONGRESS!

WHOLE NO. 1851 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1946 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer — VOL. 36, NO. 40

LABOR, USA

Washington, D. C.—The thirteenth edition of the American Federation of the Air, broadcast on the "Labor, USA" program over the American Broadcasting Company's network, included the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news:

The Oracle in the Kremlin

By LEWIS G. HINES
AFL Legislative Representative

In ancient Greece, the leaders used to consult the Delphic oracle before making any momentous decisions as to war or peace.

Today, in our modern age, we apparently must consult the new oracle in the Kremlin to find out what is going to happen in such matters.

The oracle spoke this week. A London newspaperman wrote out some questions, put them into an envelope addressed to Joseph Stalin and dropped it into a letterbox outside the Kremlin in Moscow. The Soviet agency made public the answers so that the entire world might know what the oracle had to say.

Generalissimo Stalin said that no real danger of a new war exists at present. He expressed his "unconditional" belief in the possibility of friendly and lasting collaboration between the Soviet Union and the western democracies.

I suppose we should all feel duly grateful for these crumbs of encouragement. But there is danger in being lulled into a false sense of security by the soft words of the oracle while the agents of the Soviet Union continue to employ harsh and aggressive policies in Europe, in Asia, and in America.

Nor do Stalin's statements, when examined closely, contain any guarantee of peace. He hedges his dismissal of the danger of war by adding the phrase "at present." At the same time he charges that American troops in China constitute a threat to peace. But he says nothing about withdrawing Russian troops now stationed in many parts of the world.

History tells us that the utterances of the Delphic oracle were so vague as to be susceptible of different interpretations and were sometimes colored to suit political ends. I fear the oracle in the Kremlin is no different.

But the main point is that we have reached a hazardous state in world affairs if peace or war is to be determined by one man or even one nation. The task of establishing and maintaining world peace was entrusted to the United Nations Organization. If any nation reserves the right to veto peace, the UNO may be doomed ever before it starts to function.

Labor Puts Safety First

By NED H. DEARBORN
President of the National Safety Council

The National Safety Council has taken a number of important steps recently to develop a program for labor's fuller participation in the safety movement.

One of those steps was the appointment of William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Council. Another step was the appointment of Robert J. Watt, international representative of the American Federation of Labor, to the Council's Board of Directors.

At the same time, the Council appointed four other labor leaders to similar positions.

We believe these labor representatives will greatly strengthen the safety movement because Safety needs Labor, and safety is of equal interest to labor and management.

I know that members of the Council's Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors look upon this move with great optimism, because the National Safety Council must be representative of all the American people if accident prevention is to succeed.

The labor leaders who are now directly associated with us in the Council will help us reach the people whom the safety program is designed to serve. And since those people, with their families, are a substantial proportion of the entire population, the new Board members will give us new insight in our efforts to bring all-round safety up to the high standards already achieved in industry.

More lives will thus be saved. And that, after all, is our goal. But I believe the trend that will result from labor's participation in National Safety Council activities will extend beyond the limits of any narrow definition of physical safety.

I am hopeful that the experience gained by the gentlemen of labor and the gentlemen of management in working side by side for a common, humanitarian goal will lead to better understanding and more cordial relations between them on issues far beyond those with which the National Safety Council is immediately concerned.

The 80th National Safety Congress, which meets here in Chicago Oct. 7-11, will provide us with the first chance to take up the labor and management side of safety since the addition of our labor members. I will take no part of this session, at which representatives of government, labor and management will deliver addresses expressing the views of their organizations with respect to industrial safety and the part they will play in the safety movement.

It is my sincere hope that a set of resolutions designed to express the optimum standards of cooperation between the three groups will grow out of this session.

Having won the war to free mankind from the evils of dictatorial government, we cannot now afford to lose the war against accidents, which kill nearly 100,000 Americans each year, and which annually injure nearly 9,000,000 men, women and children.

The Problem of Mob Violence

By BORIS SHISHKIN
AFL Economist

Not long ago Willie Dudley, a Negro employed in a clay plant near Gordon, Georgia, and a member of the Cement, Lime & Gypsum Workers Union of the American Federation of Labor, had a close call. A band of hooded men describing themselves as members of the Ku Klux Klan seized him and ordered him to get out of the union. He refused. They threatened a beating. He still refused. They kept him overnight and left him unconscious. When he recovered, he went back on the job as a union worker. Inspired by Willie Dudley's courage, 475 other workers in the plant joined the union and won a contract—but only after a year of violence and strife in which otherwise peaceful men in Georgia.

Isaac Woodward, Jr., a Negro veteran just discharged from the army had a worse experience than Willie Dudley. On his way home to the Bronx from South Carolina, he was cussed-out by a bus driver. An argument developed. A cop was called. This was the beginning of a long story of violence.

Charges against that cop, Chief of Police Lynwood L. Shull of Batesburg, S. C., alleging that he beat and tortured Isaac Woodward and blinded him for life, which resulted in his discharge from the army, were dismissed.

Several days ago I joined with representatives of other groups, including the Federal Council of Churches, to consult with President Truman on behalf of the American Federation of Labor. We urged the President to appoint a commission of high-minded Americans to study the rise of mob violence in many American communities. We asked that the impartial commission make its findings and render its report to the next Congress.

The growth of intolerance is fed by many sources. Most important among them is our failure as a nation to make good on what we as Americans believe in—equality of opportunity. Many employers have denied jobs to workers, regardless of their skills or qualifications, only because of the color of their skin or their religion.

During the war the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices was successful in reducing job discrimination mainly by conciliation and persuasion. This wartime committee has expired. Since then, scores and hundreds of thousands of workers lost their jobs or were demoted because they were Negroes, Mexicans or Jews.

The American Federation of Labor urged the last Congress to enact legislation establishing a permanent fair employment practices committee, but that legislation was filibustered to death in the Senate.

For many years the AFL has led in the fight for a federal law which would make lynching a crime against the nation. The Anti-Lynching Act was finally defeated in the Senate by means of filibuster.

Anti-poll tax legislation, essential to bring to victorious conclusion the historical fight of freedom-loving Americans against "taxation without representation," was also defeated by filibuster.

Congressional elections are only five weeks off. It is obvious, as the fact that race hatred discrimination and mob violence are a threat to America's democratic way of life in the future, you should not fail in your duty to send on the representatives you elect to Congress to pledge prompt and remedial action.

RETAIL CLERKS GAIN

Atlanta, Ga.—Consistent gains in organization and improved wages, hours and working conditions were reported by the International Retail Clerks (AFL) in their convention here this week. Gains in membership in this union in Atlanta alone now has reached 1,000.

$6 MILLION FOR VETERANS

Washington, D. C.—Approximately $6,000,000 in claims and pensions is being paid monthly to more than 2,125,000 living veterans of wars dating back as far as the Indian wars, Administrator Gaither said, the Veterans Administration announced.

Green Tells Miners U. S. Wage Control Must End If Nation Is to Prosper

Atlantic City.—Demand for an immediate end of Government wage controls was sounded by AFL President William Green before the annual convention of the United Mine Workers here. Until such action is taken, he declared, conditions throughout the Nation can never be restored to normalcy.

"Today our patience is exhausted," he said, "our faith in the willingness or the power of the Government to keep the cost of living within bounds has been destroyed. We are convinced that the cost of living has risen nearly half free and half regimented. We demand and we insist that the tragic farce of continued wage controls while prices mount must be ended—and ended at once.

"The Government should return to labor and management the freedom of collective bargaining which is the very core of our free enterprise system."

At the same time he sounded grave warning that unless labor got a ruling about major changes in Government policies affecting wages and prices, every gain that is regained will be nullified.

"All American labor is faced today with the same threat," he declared. "Caught between the millstones of frozen wages and constantly expanding prices, the workers see the standards won by years of struggle gradually being whittled away. Prices are forging ahead, they are inexorably being pushed back.

"That is the root cause of the universal unrest which is sweeping the ranks of labor today. And that is why the American Federation of Labor has declared war against continuation of Government wage controls.

"We were persuaded to agree to wage stabilization shortly after the war, because of patriotic considerations. We were determined that victory must be won at any cost. We were persuaded by the Government that if we would go along under a tightly controlled wage policy, the cost of living after the war would be controlled, the purchasing power of the workers would not be destroyed and the standards of organized labor would not be impaired.

"The Government has failed miserably to keep that promise. From the very beginning, prices got out of hand. Repeatedly, the wage formula was renewed. We were told that prices would be rolled back if only we would be patient. Repeatedly we were told that prices would be stabilized. Each stabilization proved ineffective, the story was that only a slight bulge would be permitted, but the line would not break. The line has not held.

"The present policy of granting price increases to cover every wage increase must be rescinded. It is typical of a false economic theory and is a fraud upon American labor and the American people as a whole."

This system, Mr. Green asserted, has resulted in an increase of 60 percent in the cost of living since the end of the war. He added:

"We firmly believe that industry and management are entitled to that

OPERATION KEEPS LEWIS FROM UMW CONVENTION

Washington, D. C.—John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers (AFL), is recovering here from an emergency appendectomy.

Stricken suddenly at his home in neighboring Alexandria, Mr. Lewis was rushed to Emergency Hospital here where the operation was performed immediately. Dr. John L. Lewis, Jr., a graduate of Johns Hopkin, and a former Naval surgeon, was an observer to the operation upon his father.

Announcement was made later that the operation was successful and that Mr. Lewis was resting comfortably.

The operation precluded any possibility of Mr. Lewis attending the annual convention of the UMW in Atlantic City this week.

August Production at Highest Peak Since V-J Day, CPA Survey Shows

Washington, D. C.—The American industrial machine in August marked its best month since the end of World War II with production near capacity of basic materials, Philip Fleming, director of Information of the Office of Domestic Trade and Small said, "has probably never been surpassed in the history of building materials production over a comparable period of time. Indeed, it compares favorably with the peak in August, with a production rate of 183,000,000 yards a week."

Small indicated that he anticipated a decline in shoe production during the coming months as a consequence of the decline in the cattle herds which deprives tanners of hides and leather.

The high production, Small said, was an indication that inventories, hitherto unbalanced, were being corrected. This means, he said, that a company will not have to hold up distribution to the public of a finished product because a single item necessary for it was not available.

The Department of Commerce, meanwhile, reported that manufacturers' inventories during August reached a new high of $18,200,000,000, or a gain of $525,000,000 over July.

John Fitzpatrick, 76, Dies; Veteran Chicago Labor Head

Chicago.—John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor and for many years one of the most widely known and popular figures in the American labor movement, died here at the age of 76 after a long illness.

Born in Ireland, Mr. Fitzpatrick came here in 1882, when still a boy. He joined the Horse Shoers Union and soon developed a deep interest in union activity.

Elected president of the Chicago Federation in 1900, he became influential in labor circles throughout the Mid-West, increased with the passing years. He helped found the Chicago Federation, central body of the AFL here, and was the leader in its organization, composed of 300 locals with a membership of 500,000. In recent years he was supported in re-election.

In 1918 Mr. Fitzpatrick helped launch the Independent Labor Party of Cook County and was the party's nominee for Mayor of Chicago, but was defeated. He was an ardent foe of Communism and racketeering, and, having rid his union of undesirable influences in the early days of his tenure, he frequently was called upon to counsel other labor leaders on the same objectives.

Mayor Ed Kelly of Chicago and other Illinois political figures, with more than 1,000 Illinois and Chicago union members, attended the funeral services for the beloved labor leader.

Among the AFL leaders who attended were Reuben G. Soderstrom and Victor A. Daniels, president and secretary-treasurer of the Illinois State Federation; the entire executive board of the Chicago Federation; William Lee, vice president of the Chicago Federation, and Joseph D. Keenan, secretary.

Mr. Fitzpatrick is survived by his widow, Catherine, and a son, John P. Fitzpatrick.

Metal, Building and Label Trades Open Pre-AFL Convention Sessions

Building Trades Session Tackles Nation-wide Housing Problem

Chicago.—Leaders of more than 1,100,000 AFL building trades workers tackled one of the Nation's outstanding problems—the housing shortage—at the annual convention of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor.

Opening discussions at the conclave revealed that there is no lack of labor in the construction industry, nor is there likely to be one for a long while. In fact, one of the serious headaches facing the department is the fact that there are not enough jobs to go around, due to the failure of the Nation's construction program to hit top stride.

Acting President Richard Gray and Secretary-Treasurer Herbert Rivers agreed in their report to the delegates that the chief causes of the delays in getting vitally needed construction projects started throughout the country are continuing scarcities of building materials and bureaucratic mishandling of the distribution of available materials.

It was suggested that the delegates would adopt strong resolutions calling for immediate expansion of the production of those materials and supplies and the creation of large stockpiles of materials to assure uninterrupted work, once construction begins on a large scale.

On the legislative side, it was considered a foregone conclusion that the convention would go on record overwhelmingly for prompt adoption by the next Congress of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill.

This bill provides for centralization of Government authority over housing construction in a single Federal agency, with a maximum of encouragement to private enterprise to fill the housing needs of the long-suffering public. The bill, originally sponsored by the AFL, offers a clear and workable blueprint for a 10-year construction program to provide the American people with 12,000,000 new living units, both in industrial centers and in agricultural areas. It includes a certain amount of public housing and slum clearance for those in the lower income brackets whose needs cannot be met by private investment on a profitable basis.

The convention enjoyed the largest turnout of delegates in the history of the department and large numbers of fraternal and industry representatives attended as observers.

The department officers submitted the reports of the work of the Wage Adjustment Board in eliminating inequities in local wage structures.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the reports of the department officers was the disclosure that stoppages of work due to jurisdictional disputes have been almost entirely eliminated.

Label Convention Gets Report On Elaborate Plans For Show

Chicago.—Elaborate plans for the big Union Label exposition, opening October 29 in St. Louis, Mo., and extending through November 8, were disclosed at the opening session of the AFL Union Label Trades Department convention here.

Officers of the department stressed particularly in their reports the necessity of expanding responsibilities for the Union Label, Shop Card and Service Button as insurance of steadily increasing AFL membership gains to cut the world.

"We must bear in mind that as our Nation attempts to build and further our international trade relations," the report of the council said, "we will at the same time throw open the markets of America to the production centers of the world.

"This form of foreign competition is not an immediate threat to American job opportunities, and our American standard of living, and will not become such a threat for years to come. The situation, however, contains the very potent germ of a very great threat when, after the war forces return to normalcy and begin to reap the benefit of modern methods of production, the problem will be squarely faced with a real threat, and it is here that the Union Label service and button must prove the defender of security and prosperity of our American workers.

Detailing the plans for the big St. Louis show, M. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the department, told the delegates:

"The exhibition will be an All-American affair and one of the greatest events of its kind in the history of the American labor movement. It gives union manufacturers an opportunity to show American consumers that union-made goods are superior in quality and workmanship.

"Celebrities of radio, stage and screen, who are members of AFL unions, will furnish daily entertainment for the public at the exhibition.

Thousands of union-made articles of every description will be on display and arrangements have been completed for special transportation facilities including air lines, railroads, barge lines and motor coaches. Governing states have issued special proclamations calling aside specific days for attendance at the exhibition by people in their areas and many unions have been requested to carry their members to the show.

The delegates were informed that the planning caravan of Boiler Makers and the Office Employes International Union has been selected with the Union Label Department.

In the report by the officers, submitted by Matthew Woll, President, it was stated:

"The year 1947 will bring to organized labor the realization of years beyond the stage of adolescence. The Executive Committee of the Federation on the threshold of manhood eager and willing to accept all of the responsibilities of the new status and motivated by an eagerness to bring all its resources to bear in an effort to achieve industrial peace and cooperation between capital and labor. To this end, we must correlate our activities. We should create, maintain, and expand the consumer market for goods produced by manufacturers and service establishments under collective bargaining agreements with the American Federation of Labor.

JOHNSON WARNS AGAINST BAN ON OLDER WORKERS

Baltimore.—Warning to employers against refusal to hire men over 35 years of age, Lewis Johnson, Under-secretary of Labor Kean Johnson, who declared that such a policy would be "a large mistake," was employed next year.

Addressing the labor groups here, Johnson said President Truman and the Labor Department are receiving an increasing number of complaints from older workers who say they can't find work. More than one-fourth of all industrial workers are past 45, he said, and those in the 45-to-65 age group receive no social security benefits.

CAR MEN ELECT BARNEY TO SUCCEED FELIX KNIGHT

Chicago.—Irvin Barney was elected president of the Railway Car Men (AFL) at the brotherhood's recent convention here. He will succeed Felix H. Knight, whose voluntary retirement will be effective at the end of the year. He has served as Mr. Knight's assistant.

Archie Barnhardt of Toledo was elected assistant general president; Thomas E. Howieson was reelected secretary-treasurer, and D. B. Hughens was reelected editor and manager of the Car Men's Journal.

PORTERS REELECT RANDOLPH

Chicago.—At the largest convention in its entire history reported Bates, the brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (AFL) unanimously reelected A. Philip Randolph to his 41st year as president and returned all other officials to office.

STANDARD WORK SHIRTS SOON TO COST 10¢ MORE

Washington, D. C.—The OPA announced that standard work shirts will soon cost about 10 percent more as henceforth manufacturers may compute selling prices on a flexible basis. For example, a shirt which formerly selling for $1.43 retail will now bring $1.58, and manufacturers are allowed to charge $13.5% a dozen for the work shirts they formerly sold for $12.50 each.

This increase, according to the OPA, similar to those recently allowed for other work clothing and work gloves, is required by the cotton textile provision OPA says, under which last all cotton textile ceilings to the market price for raw cotton.

WALTER BARNES DIES

San Diego, Calif.—Walter Barnes, veteran AFL leader here, died of a heart attack with which he was stricken in the offices of Local 333, Brotherhood of Carpenters (AFL). He was 70 years of age.

Mr. Barnes, former president of the San Diego County Central Trades Council, was 2 delegate to the council from the time he entered the city, a local record. Offices of other locals here were closed during the funeral services.

COOPERATION SEEN KEY

New York City—Close cooperation between labor and management in reviving the New York millinery industry has increased the annual value of business from $77,000,000 to $176,000,000 in 10 years, Nathaniel Spector, manager of the New York joint board of the Millinery Workers Union (AFL), announced.

Frey Sharply Critical of Bureaucratic Acts Injurious to Labor

Chicago.—Delegates from three major divisions of the American Federation of Labor gathered here for their annual meetings which serve as a curtain-raiser to the 65th AFL convention opening here October 7.

They included the Metal Trades, the Union Label, and the Building and Construction Trades Departments.

All three were confronted with serious questions touching upon wages, hours, climbing living costs, legislation covering many issues vital to labor and relations with Federal agencies.

In a comprehensive report to the Metals Trades Convention John P. Frey, president, was sharply critical of some Government agencies whose activities extends into the field of labor. He singled out particularly the National Labor Relations Board which, he said, had shown an anti-AFL bias.

Discussing the Government's part in labor matters, Mr. Frey said:

"As there must be Federal agencies wielding authority, it strikes the writer that that Trade Unionists cannot be protected unless there is action by Congress which would prevent such conditions as those against which we have found cause to complain.

"As the situation stands today, our welfare, our rights and our opportunities rest largely in the hands of men given such authority, over whom we have no voice, for they do not hold elective office. It is our well-measured conviction that the existence of a bureaucracy is a definite menace to free institutions, and as the increase in number, the menace is increased."

Pursuing this issue further, Mr. Frey told the delegates:

"Government by law, which regulates and defines the authority of public officials, has been superseded by control over our every-day activities by the Bureaus, Commissions, Boards, and other Federal regulatory bodies which are controlled, at least in part, by their partisan views, the theories to which they are wedded, obvious prejudices and political objectives. Perhaps the greatest problem facing our Trade Union movement today than this issue of bureaucratic controls."

He very reported an extensive membership gain throughout the war period and added:

"It is most gratifying to find that the present membership of our International Unions is much larger than before the war and that friendly relationships have been established with thousands of employers who formerly were opposed to maintaining cordial relations.

"From one end of the country to the other, AFL unions, early this year, negotiated wage contracts which reflect an increase in prices. Forty-three thousand of such agreements were entered into which carried no price increases."

Discussing the international labor picture, Mr. Frey reported grave difficulties in reviving the International Metal Workers' Federation in a manner which would restore its former effectiveness.

"A free trade union movement does not exist in most of Europe," he said. "What was previously the largest trade union in Europe, that of Germany, has practically vanished."

He then said many obstacles had been encountered in the attempts to restore free trade unionism in the already liberated areas.

"Russia, he said, "apparently wants only Communist and trade unions which were permitted in Russia."

As it is, the official hand in the French, British, and American zones in Germany has not proved itself to be helpful to labor," Mr. Frey declared.

Sounding grave warning to the delegates to be constantly on guard against infiltration by Red agents, Mr. Frey said:

"Since our last convention, Communism in the United States has rapidly developed into an agency for Moscow. It now goes far beyond carrying out the party line. A well planned, active campaign has been launched by Moscow agents to secure a controlling place in the American Trade Union movement."

USES OFFICES IN CAPITAL TOLD TO END COLOR LINE

Washington, D. C.—Segregation of white and Negro job applicants came to an end in the District of Columbia offices of the U. S. Employment Service under orders of Labor Secretary L. B. Schwellenbach. Equitable treatment will be afforded all job applicants under the new procedure and it no longer will be necessary to separate white and colored persons and to maintain separate staffs of interviewers for each.

This change, labor department officials said, could not be extended throughout the Nation, in view of the fact that the USES offices will be returned to State control in November and will not be subject to Federal direction.

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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

GET OUT THE VOTE! ELECT A BETTER CONGRESS!

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1946 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Metal Trades Dept. Approves Ban On Jurisdictional Work Halts

Chicago.—A sweeping ban on work stoppages due to jurisdictional disputes was approved by the AFL Metal Trades Department in what was hailed as one of the most constructive developments in craft union history.

The Department set up machinery for the peaceful settlement of jurisdictional problems among its own affiliated unions and also entered into a significant agreement with the Building and Construction Trades Department on their respective areas of jurisdiction in the manufacture of prefabricated housing.

The department acted to clean house of intra-department disputes after a special committee, headed by President Charles MacGowan of the Boilermakers, brought in a blistering report condemning jurisdictional strikes as completely without justification and equivalent to a breach of good faith when called in violation of a contract.

The steps outlined in the new machinery approved by the department for settlement of disputes include:

1. Local officials of unions involved in jurisdictional disputes must meet and make a serious attempt to agree.

2. If that fails, presidents of the international unions must designate representatives who shall try to settle the issue.

3. Then the international presidents themselves shall meet on the questions involved if these efforts fail.

4. If even these final efforts fail, an "umpire" is to dispose of the issues.

John P. Frey, department president, said that the action on settling jurisdictional disputes was the most important of the three-day convention.

The convention directed all district and local metal trades councils to add the "jurisdictional peace proposal" to existing contracts. It also urged all international unions to incorporate the proposal in contracts which are not metal trades council agreements.

The delegates reelected Mr. Frey and extended his term from one to three years. They also reelected Joseph Horn of Chicago, international president of the Blacksmiths, as first vice president, and James Brownlow, secretary-treasurer. Daniel W. Tracy, former assistant to the Secretary of Labor, was elected as sixth vice president.

Discussing the jurisdictional agreement between the Metal Trades and Building Trades Department, Mr. Frey told the convention:

"With the coming of the prefabricated building there has developed the fabrication of so-called units in a building. A complete bathroom is put together in a manufacturing plant, the bath tub, the wash basin, all of the equipment of the bath room is put together and shipped from that plant and put directly into a home.

"Some of the other units are not, such as the kitchen unit, which includes the refrigerator, the gas or electric stove, the sink, the shelves, the cupboards. In other words, the kitchen is put together in a manufacturing plant and the entire kitchen in that form is shipped and put into a home.

"It is not the function of the Metal Trades Department over the purpose of the department to claim any jurisdiction over such purely building trades work. The putting together of the bathroom and the putting together of the kitchen is as much building trades work as though they did it in the building instead of in an assembly plant which we can call a manufacturing plant."

The Metal Trades Department has taken the position that any prefabricating of units in connection with prefabricated homes is the work of the Building Trades Department and not of the Metal Trades Department. There is no conflict over the jurisdiction between the two organizations.

"It is necessary that this explanation should be made and incorporated in the record, so that no one will understand a mortgage is being foreclosed or a plot somewhere that is engaged solely in building trades work in there instead of doing it directly on the building. I think these cases have been settled and leave no doubt in anyone's mind and is clear on the points made."

OPA Boosts Food Prices By Another $160,000,000

Washington, D. C.—In a new price-boosting order, the Office of Price Administration announced changes that will increase the Nation's climbing food bill by another $160,000,000 a year.

At the same time announcement was made also that certain cotton clothing, bed linens and table cloths have been raised.

The food price action is an increase of 2½ cents a pound in retail prices of oleomargarine, cooking and salad oils, mayonnaise, salad dressing, and shortening.

Prices of cotton textile fabrics and yarns were raised about 2 percent. This is the fourth cotton increase since August 1. The OPA said it will issue a new retail price list of bed linen and tablecloths about 2 percent and cotton garment 1 percent.

Cotton linners were raised 3 cents a pound. Linters are the residue fibers from cottonseed and are used for numerous products, including mattresses, upholstery, rayon and cellulose products, and synthetic rubber tire cord. The increase is retroactive to September 4.

The price of soybeans was increased 15 cents a bushel and storage charges and distributors' mark-ups also raised.

The civilian production administration announced it is abandoning the previous requirement that makers of wool fabrics set aside part of their production for low cost clothing. It explained that ample supplies of wool fabrics are available. It's a spokesman warned that the shortage of men's and boys' woolen suits, trousers, overcoats, and topcoats will continue.

The agency will continue to require set-asides of cotton and rayon for low cost clothing.

Schwellenbach Acts to Restore 1,800 USES Offices to States Nov. 16

Washington, D. C.—Plans for the return of 1,800 offices of the United States Employment Service to State agencies November 16, in line with legislation approved in the final days of the recent session of Congress were announced by Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach.

Under the new arrangement the Federal Government will continue to finance fully the operation of the offices, and Mr. Schwellenbach pledged that all efforts will be made to provide in every locality an effective, free employment service. In effect, the transfer will mark a return to the Federal-State relationship existing before the Federal Government took over the activities in 1942.

The regulations drafted by the Secretary of Labor and the advice of Robert C. Goodwin, director of USES, call on each State to submit a plan of operations. In return, the States will receive the "full cooperation of the Bureau of Employment Security in working out procedures and obtaining needed information in setting up their offices. Federal funds, however, can be denied to any State that fails to maintain adequate services as required by Congress. Also, there is a regulation that "no State agency shall refer any person to a position, the filling of which will aid directly or indirectly, in filling a job vacant because the former occupant is on strike or is being locked out in the course of a labor dispute, or the filling of which is an issue in a labor dispute."

States are being told that they must cooperate in the interstate recruitment and transfer of workers and "maintain an adequate system for the recruitment and transfer of workers between areas within a State."

Each State is to maintain a local office employment counseling service for veterans and other applicants, and to work up occupational analyses designed to promote stability of employment. Another requirement is that each State agency must keep a current file of information on local labor market conditions.

Convention Applauds MacGowan In Warning Against Red Tactics

Chicago.—In one of the most stirring addresses before the delegates to the Metal Trades Department Convention, Charles J. MacGowan received loud applause as he warned American labor to guard against infiltration of Communistic agents in the labor movement.

Pinch-hitting for President Frey, who had an emergency appendectomy, Mr. MacGowan took occasion to tell the delegates:

"I think that the greatest menace to not only our free trade union movement, but to our whole American system and our free form of government is the penetration by the apostles of Moscow into our American way of life.

"I was one of those designated to attended the United Nations Conference in San Francisco, in the capacity of something called 'consultant'—an honor and an office which I have never yet been clearly able to define.

"We were not there to be consulted. We were there to be told! I saw the Russian Commissar, Mr. Molotov, and all of his staff of representatives, and I saw the smaller delegations that sat in that opera house where we met and witnessed hundreds of men on the floor and in the galleries who were pleading to the heavens every utterance of Commissar Molotov.

"I felt that the whole conference was dominated by the Russian delegation, just as surely as they are attempting to dominate the Peace Conference in Paris and the United Nations Conference.

Mr. MacGowan told the delegates, and from their loud applause there was no question but that they were in unanimous agreement with his judgment, that "the real battle against communism must be built by the American Federation of Labor."

He said that the feeling were the delegates that Mr. MacGowan was interrupted several times during his address to the convention by applause.

Watt Calls on ILO to Establish World Democracy to Aid Labor

Montreal.—A firm pledge that American workers will cooperate wholeheartedly with the policies of other nations to "establish a democracy of tolerance, reason, justice and freedom" throughout the world was given before the International Labor Organization by Robert J. Watt, U. S. Workers' Delegate, at its 29th Session here and AFL member of the Wage Stabilization Board.

"We, the workers of United States," he told the delegates, "want a world order which will banish fear and want, and in which all people may live. We are inclined to be dissatisfied with things as they are but we are willing to work for better ways of doing things, mechanically, politically, and socially, but we do not want to be dominated by self-styled supermen do our thinking for us. We don't want to dominate other people either. We want democracy dominated by other people.

"Our democracy may be clumsy in comparison to some other systems, but it has great strength when pressured. The events of recent months have caused despondency in some minds, despair in others. But hope is still alive. But they have also caused plain people to ponder. The erred jury of mankind has been listening testimony, and that jury is on its way to reach a verdict. It is happening in my country, in England, in France and many other countries. The time is near at hand when a unanimous will no longer succeed in gagging the mouths, stuffing the ears and blinding the eyes of the majority. Plain people everywhere are thinking.

"I submit that the ILO is the one agency now available which has the democratic machinery to create an international pattern of economic equity which will have the confidence of decent people everywhere. The ILO is an organization that operates by persuasion, and only after deliberation and democratic agreement, which is essential if our gains are to be real and enduring.

"It is up to us here in the Conference to bring to a climax a constructive year of work, and to lay the groundwork for the critical days ahead. Toward this objective, the American people, and particularly the American workers, will do their full share in cooperating with other nations to devise the most intelligent and farsighted international programs through the ILO, that a democracy of tolerance, reason, justice and freedom may continue to grow in all lands, including our own."

Western Union Workers Get Substantial Pay Raise

Chicago.—Agreement of Western Union officials to provide substantial pay increases for 50,000 workers settled a 7-day-standing dispute, which threatened to tie up the entire system of telegraph service. Under the agreement, 35c an hour accepts the August 20 recommendation of a Government fact-finding board for a flat increase of 15c an hour, a 5c an hour night differential, and an additional four cents per hour for some job classifications.

The agreement will be submitted to the wage stabilization board for approval and is to remain in effect until Aug. 15, 1947. The union agreed to cooperate with the company in an effort to obtain approval by the Federal Communications Commission of rate increases, abolition of reduced rates for government telegrams, and 10 per cent of the 25 percent federal tax on telegrams.

AFL LABEL AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION OCT. 29-NOV. 3

Washington, D. C.—"Meet me in St. Louis" is the slogan for the coming AFL Union Label and Industrial Exhibition to be held in St. Louis from Oct. 29 to Nov. 3.

According to L. M. Ornburn, Director of the Exhibition, booth display space will be at a premium within the next two weeks. The Cooperative Leagues of the United States of America has contracted for a booth to display products and services and the Leagues really co-operate as they usually carry the union label on their goods.

The Association of American Railroads will also be on exhibit with a display booth which will emphasize the human element—the rail workers. This contract for a booth is one of the most loyal supporters of union-made products and not only demand union label products but union label on their wearing apparel as well.

DECLINE IN EMPLOYMENT FELT IN CALIFORNIA

San Francisco, Calif.—In a recent conference of figures by the research staffs of the State Department of Industrial Relations, the State Department of Employment, and the State Reconstruction and Re-employment Commission, a decline in employment in California is estimated to have decreased to between 350,000 and 399,000 at the end of July, which represents a decline of about 60,000 from the end of June.

The large turnover reported among the unemployed is due to the necessity to material shortages which forces temporary shutdowns, or slackening of operations. A decline in employment has been estimated for October and November, together with seasonal reductions in the labor forces. The Fall decline will be felt after most of the crops are harvested and food canning operations have slowed down. At best, the estimate of employment in October is 3,854,000 and for November 3,403,000.

AFL Convention Delegates All Set To Tackle Great National Issues

Building Trades Hear Green Demand Removal of Pay and Price Controls

Chicago.—President William Green, addressing the convention of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL here, sounded a strong demand for "less Government control" on matters affecting wages and prices.

Mr. Green at the same time predicted a "great future, brighter hope and steadily improved living standards" if American labor follows its present pattern.

"We are asking less Government control because we have learned, by experience, our own lesson. Government has failed miserably in labor relations and wage and price controls," he said.

"I need go no further to emphasize the present situation than to cite the recent tie-up of American shipping. Our workers negotiated, in good faith, their own contract with the shipping industry, but the War Stabilization Board, in an arbitrary stand rejecting the agreement.

"The terms of the contract as originally reached through full democratic collective bargaining were upheld by President Truman. The War Stabilization Board has proved conclusively in this issue that it has outlived its usefulness."

Mr. Green told the delegates that the OPA extension act stands before the nation today as "only a profiteering" piece of legislation.

"All which has happened in recent months, labor unrest in the face of climbing costs of living, completely vindicates the position the AFL has taken from the very begin ng," he said.

"The economic doctrine we have been preaching to the nation over a long period of years has been proved in every crisis through which our country has passed.

"I would like to call attention at this time to the grave situation confronting the American labo, movement by forces which are seeking to undermine our unions and to deprive our members, through national and state legislation, of the gains which they have achieved after long years of struggle.

"The time has come for every unit of labor to be alerted against infiltration of antiunion forces and vigorously oppose, in Congress and in the states, every move which would deprive our workers of the fruits for which they have struggled so long.

"Labor has a right to mobilize and the only capital it possesses is its economic strength. Today we have in the American Federation of Labor more than 7,100,000 members and as we march together we will find new horizons and prove to the world the sound economic position our workers occupy."

Mr. Green told the convention that "those who have experimented with other labor movements" have learned that the AFL "rests on a firm, indestructible foundation" and "have come home to the AFL."

George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the AFL, told the Building Trades delegates:

"The building industry is our nation's best spearhead to prosperity, and, without outside interference, the union building trades can lay out the path for a return to normal conditions."

Mr. Meany warned the delegates to be on constant guard against "certain people who want completed Government control" of all matters affecting American workers.

"Our American workers made an enviable war record, and they must insist that the standards set up in those crucial days will be maintained," he said.

Discussing housing prices, Mr. Meany told the convention present cost increases cannot fairly be attributed to labor "when we are trying to give returning veterans homes within reach of their pocketbooks."

He called for a thorough inquiry into the causes behind skyrocketing home prices and cited as an example six-room homes, normally selling for $6,500 and now on the market for $12,000 and $13,000.

"We can't blame that on labor. The biggest housing cost item today is profit," he told the delegates.

Green Promises Teachers Support In Wage Pleas

New York City.—Plans of the American Federation of Labor to intensify the nationwide drive in support of public school teachers seeking "decent salaries" were announced by AFL President William Green in a telegram to Miss Catherine Deviney, Guild, the local union of the American Federation of Teachers (AFL).

Miss Deviney made the statement public by Mrs. Rebecca C. Simonson, its president. Mr. Green said he has "long been conscious of the grave injustice which has been done teachers in the public schools of the United States." He declared that the federation "will not pause nor cease its efforts until justice is done the teachers of the nation and decent salaries are paid them for the service they render in the public schools."

Mrs. Simonson said Mr. Green would call on state federations and central labor groups throughout the country "to organize campaigns of assistance to teachers in the public schools of the nation." Various groups of New York City unions are preparing to make themselves heard on the salary situation at the board of education's meeting.

Pointing to "a grave shortage of teachers" in the public schools, Mr. Green said that "because of the lack of incentive caused by the payment of inadequate salaries, many young people are refraining from entering the teaching profession, preparing themselves to follow the teaching profession."

Mr. Green declared, "is a serious question—one in which all classes of people and particularly the American federations are deeply interested.

"No group of public servants renders more faithful, patriotic and efficient service to the children and people of our nation than the teachers employed in the public schools. It is clear the salaries of the teachers have not kept pace with the increased work-have been paid to those employed in all walks of life.

"In view of these facts," he continued, "I am appealing to the officers and members of the state federations of labor and city central bodies to join in the nationwide effort which is being put forth to provide for the payment of adequate wages to teachers employed in the public schools of the nation."

SHARP RISE IN PRODUCTION PER MANHOUR AHEAD

Washington, D. C.—While the price rise is tapering off, production per manhour in American industries is increasing. The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that their index of production per manhour rose in 1945 over 1944, and that the figures for 1946 show a still further rise this year. This means that unions can soon win wage increases without raising prices, giving workers their "real" wages.

The Bureau points out that increased manhour output depends to an important extent on "production conditions, among which the quality and efficiency of machines and equipment." Its experts look forward to an increased rate of increase in productivity per manhour in the immediate future, due to phenomenally large investments in new plant and equipment. The rise should be sharp in industries which will get new equipment during the war, such as: Textiles, clothing, leather, paper, printing, machinery, electrical equipment, automobiles.

Bureau experts also indicate that "output per manhour . . . falls off when labor productivity declines. That is why labor policies which promote high production are essential to create the income which can pay higher real wages.

BRITISH LABOR PRESSES FOR WAGES-HOURS ADJUSTMENT

London, Eng.—Three questions are now being discussed by the leaders of Britain's trade union movement. They are the demand for a 40-hour week, the claim of workers for sound pay for equal work, and the growing intolerance by a number of quarters for a wage-stabilization policy.

Efforts are being made to persuade women to remain in the factories instead of returning to domestic duties. The general shortage of labor, the principle that women should be paid the same as men would obviously have a big effect, as has been shown by certain industries, notably road passenger transport, where the principle of the "rate for the job for women" has been won.

REA APPROVES LOAN IN NORTH DAKOTA

Washington, D. C.—A loan totaling $300,000 has just been approved by the Rural Electrification Administration for the Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., of Grand Forks, N. D., according to an announcement by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The funds will be used in the construction of a 7-mile transmission line and to provide construction of new general-ing and transmission facilities.

Federation At Its Peak Strength As Chicago Conclave Opens

Chicago.—United in spirit and purpose, 600 delegates representing more than seven million American workers assembled at the Morrison Hotel here for the opening session of the 65th convention of the American Federation of Labor.

Prepared to grapple with the Nation's outstanding economic and social problems and to define labor's policy on the vital international issue of world peace, the delegates expectantly looked to AFL President William Green to sound the keynote for their deliberations in his opening address.

The annual congress of labor was ready to consider many important recommendations submitted by the AFL Executive Council in its report to the convention and a large number of resolutions offered by delegates from the Federation's 102 national and international unions.

Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson headed the list of distinguished speakers invited to address the convention during the early sessions. Others included:

Dr. John R. Steelman, the director of War Mobilization and Reconversion; General Omar N. Bradley, the war hero who now heads the Veterans Administration; the Commanders of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars; David K. Lilienthal, director of the Tennessee Valley Authority and chairman of the Presidential committee which drew up the United States' policy for international control of the atomic bomb; General Carl Spaatz, Commander of the Army Air Forces; Joseph A. Padway, chief counsel for the AFL; and Maj. General G. B. Erskine, head of the Re-training and Re-employment Administration.

President Truman was invited to the convention but informed President Green that he would not be able to make a personal appearance. He sent an important message which will be submitted to the convention.

Such burning issues as wage policy, price control, an extensive labor-saving program and action to defeat anti-labor legislation in Congress and the State legislatures occupied the attention of the delegates on the domestic front.

Foreign policy, especially as exhibited by Soviet Russia's aggressive attitude during the European Peace Conferences, will also come in for a great deal of discussion as the convention proceeds.

The menace of Communism here at home and its grip on some CIO unions is due for a thorough going-over. This subject will color the entire discussion on the need for unity in the labor movement—unity among legitimate trade unions, not those controlled or dominated by the Communists.

This is the first AFL convention in two years, the 1945 meeting having been cancelled on orders of the Government because of postwar travel restrictions.

The delegates found substantial progress had been achieved by the Federation during the two-year period. Among the encouraging developments stressed in their hotel lobby conversations were the return of the United Mine Workers of America to the AFL fold with 600,000 members and the gratifying membership gains being scored in the AFL's Southern organizing drive.

As usual, the AFL Convention was preceded by many departmental conventions—those of the Metal Trades, Building and Construction Trades and the Union Label Trades. The first Constitutional Convention of the new and united Maritime Trades Department was scheduled to open concurrently with the AFL's main meeting.

The delegates also hailed the chartering of three new international unions since the 1945 convention. These are the National Farm Labor Union, the Post Office Supervisors and the Radio Directors Guild.

These accretions, plus the organizing gains made by the AFL and its affiliated unions, have raised the Federation's total paid-up membership to its highest figure in history, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany revealed in his report to the convention.

As of the end of the fiscal year, August 31, the AFL membership attested figure was 7,250,000, Mr. Meany declared.

Evidence that the Federation is at its peak strength in morale, as well as in numbers, was afforded by the confident and militant spirit of the delegates on their arrival here. The true peace prevails within the AFL family to an extremely high degree and efforts to remove future causes of friction by new machinery to prevent jurisdictional disputes gained marked headway, both in the Building Trades and Metal Trades conventions.

YOUR TAXES AND MINE

This is the 13th of a series of 15 articles on tax problems affecting every person in the Nation, written for the Weekly News Service by Arthur A. Elder, tax consultant of the AFL's Tax Committee and a vice president of the American Federation of Teachers.

The Personal Income Tax

Tax experts agree that the personal income tax, properly graduated, is the best kind of tax.

It took a long, hard battle to establish the income tax in the United States, and it finally required an amendment to the constitution, adopted in 1913, to settle the question.

The best feature of the graduated income tax is that it places the burden of taxes on those best able to pay. It is truly democratic.

There was a time when almost no wage earners ever had to pay or bother with the income tax. It was, actually, a tax on the rich. Today, with wage earners paid plenty of individual taxes, through taxes on tobacco, liquor, amusements, and many duties and excise taxes, but few of them realized that they were paying so much of their income to the government.

Now that government expenditures have skyrocketed due to the cost of the war and the post-war necessities of the nation, the income tax hits all who earn a living. Since it is collected from their wages, it hits the workers feel it every pay day, and knowing just how big a chunk it takes out of their earnings.

Economists believe that any tax that cuts down on the amount of goods and services that can be brought is a bad tax. The minute goods become plentiful with the return of high production, any restriction on consumption starts us on the road to depression.

That's why labor is so insistent that income tax exemptions should be higher, rates on people in the low income brackets should be cut, and rates on people in middle and upper income brackets should be kept high. Only if the mass of the people can buy all the products that we can manufacture, do we have a chance of avoiding depression and disaster.

WINDOW WASHERS WIN RAISE

Chicago, Ill.—The Chicago Window Washers Union, Local 94 (AFL), has been granted an increase of 15 cents an hour under a contract covering a guarantee of 8-hour day and week at $1.50 an hour for general work, for "extra hazardous" work the window washers will receive $1.60.

MEAT SHORTAGE UNTIL SPRING

Reports from Chicago and Kansas City, flowing into the Capital, indicated that, although a somewhat more plentiful in about two months, supplies will continue well below demand until at least early spring.

UNITED MINE WORKERS BUY MILLION DOLLAR BUILDING

Washington, D. C.—The United Mine Workers of America have purchased the Insurance Building, situated on 8 and 9 Streets N. W. The UMW will occupy the 9 Street side and 9 Streets on the side of McPherson Park from the Insurance Building.

Officers of the union refused to reveal whether they intend to give up their headquarters at 900 15th St. where offices of the organization are housed, or whether they have purchased the Insurance Building for investment purposes.